A

SHORT LETTER, &c.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

A

SHORT LETTER

TO

COLONEL LENOX,

ON HIS CONDUCT TOWARDS

THE DUKE OF YORK.

BY AN OFFICER OF THE ARMY.

He was a Man
Of an unbounded Stomach, ever ranking
Himſelf with Princes.

HENRY THE EIGHTH.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR G. KEARSLEY, NO. 46, FLEET-STREET.

MDCCLXXXIX.

A LETTER, &c.

WHEN an individual preſumes to quit that ſtation which the manners and cuſtoms of a country has aſſigned him, to rank himſelf with Princes, and claim an equality with Royalty, it then becomes the public to examine the nature of his pretenſions. He has wantonly renounced the veil of privacy, and every perſon is at liberty to conſider how far his conduct can be vindicated, or his preſumption palliated

by the concurring circumſtances of family connections, perſonal merit, or profeſſional ſituation.

The late language, behaviour, and appeal of Colonel Lennox, have all contributed to ſubject him to this inquiry; nor can he, after aſſiduouſly courting the geneneral attention, be diſpleaſed to find he has engaged it. Events trifling and inſignificant in themſelves, become important and intereſting according to the quality of the perſons they affect; and the nephew and heir apparent to the Duke of Richmond, may well expect ſome ſhare of that public obſervation which for ſucceſſive years has been ſo largely diverted towards his uncle

The flattering expectation of an elevated title, accompanied by an affluent fortune, may naturally inflame the inexperienced vanity of youth; and though I am not *inclined to believe* that any perſonal expoſtulation would be attended with *danger*, yet I have choſen this mode as the moſt open to remind you by, and on whom that title was beſtowed, and in what manner that fortune has been acquired and increaſed.

There are, indeed, many illuſtrious families in this kingdom, who, long poſſeſſed of hereditary diſtinctions, cannot but contemplate the train of their anceſtors with ardent and avowed ſatisfaction. They find them honourably enrolled in the records

of their country, defending the freedom of the ſubject, or maintaining the *juſt* prerogative of the Crown. They find them at the hazard of their fortunes, and not unfrequently at the expence of their lives, guarding the conſtitution equally againſt Royal encroachments, and popular fury. Such a deſcent may well inſpire the ideas of unqualified dignity, or excite the emotions of unſullied honour. Thoſe who have eſtabliſhed the Throne by their valour, may be tempted to conſider themſelves as ſcarce inferior to it; and the recollection of the generous and martial ſpirit of their progenitors, will hardly ſuffer them to taint their own actions with meanneſs or cowardice.

It was the boaſt of ancient Nobility, that their ſons were brave, and their daughters were chaſte;—condeſcend to trace back the virtues of your anceſtors, and you may judge how far the expreſſion is applicable to your own race. But I will not call to remembrance the painful hiſtory of female frailty; repentant beauty muſt ever command our pity, and will at length even inſure our eſteem. Were the reſt of the family conſigned to oblivion, the virtues of your uncle would be ſufficient to immortalize it.

The doubtful deſcendant of a wanton and luxurious Prince; the certain offspring of a rapacious and profligate proſtitute, has revived the character of the ancient Thraſo; and while he

he is loud to menace—while he is ready to aſperſe, trembles to meet the man he has threatened, and ſupport the injury he has offered.

The late General Clavering, early in life was diſtinguiſhed by thoſe characteriſtics which marked his conduct to the laſt hour of his exiſtence; zealous of his honour, and tenacious of his integrity, his undaunted ſpirit was ever prompt to vindicate the firſt, as his diſintereſted prudence was vigilant to guard the laſt. When he was appointed one of the Supreme Council and Commander in Chief in Bengal, it pleaſed the Duke of Richmond to indulge his general ſtrain of invective. The conqueſt of Guadalope was deſcribed with happy pleaſantry; and the

the conduct of the officers on that expedition, were the objects of the noble ſpeaker's ſatire and ridicule: the feelings of General Clavering, as a ſoldier and a man, were arouſed; a direct diſavowal, in the moſt explicit terms, was demanded through the channel of Lord Dorcheſter. Shame for a moment maintained an ineffectual ſtruggle againſt fear. After a ſhort pauſe, the required reparation was acquieſced in; and the words, uttered in the preſence of hundreds, were retracted with a faint bluſh, and denied by a ſolemn declaration.

A ſubmiſſion, ſo degrading to the to the feelings of a man, ſo inconſiſtent with the dignity of a peer, one might naturally imagine would have rendered

rendered his Grace cautious in future; but the ſpirit of envious detraction was too predominant in his boſom to be checked by any thing but a ſenſe of immediate danger.

An amiable young Nobleman ſcorning to indulge in the lap of peace, had devoted his talents to the toils and dangers of war. The country, however divided it might be in opinion reſpecting the cauſe he engaged in, unanimouſly acknowledged the ardor and manly virtue with which he ſupported the terror of *her* arms, and eſtabliſhed the glory of *his* own name. The repeated perfidy of the enemy called for exemplary puniſhment, and an officer who had frequently broken his parole was,

by

by Lord Rawdon, consigned to merited execution. The *absence* of that nobleman inflamed the *courage* and indignation of the Duke of Richmond. He was exposed to the chance of war; he might possibly never return; and his Grace hesitated not in the House of Lords, to arraign the execution of Colonel Haynes in the most gross and opprobrious terms. Lord Rawdon did return; with the approbation and applause of his fellow-soldiers and countrymen. He instantly flew to vindicate his character, and justify his conduct. It was not an *explanation* of his Grace's expressions that he demanded; but he *compelled* him to the most derogatory and humiliating *submission*. Abject cowardice is the ge-

neral companion of unqualified inſolence; and his Grace was once more called upon the ſtage as a public example, to inform us of that an *arrogant* diſpoſition cannot be more ready to offer an inſult, than it may be induced, by *proper application*, to atone by the moſt ſubmiſſive reparation.

Such, Sir, has been the delicate ſenſe of honor; ſuch the magnanimous conduct of the man whoſe title you hope to inherit; and the mean and ſordid practices by which the preſent Duke* has aggrandized his

* A few years ſince a celebrated Painter was engaged by a noble Duke to draw his Grace's ſtud, in Suſſex; when the artiſt had finiſhed his engagement, he was called upon to deliver a bill; and

his fortune, are only to be equalled by the avarice and rapacity of his congenial predeceſſor.

Small, therefore, can be your claim from family connections; and when your perſonal merit is conſidered, it will be found, I doubt, to add but little ſtrength to the importance you have aſſumed. The abilities of Mr. Buſby, either to form the mind or manners, are acknowledged with pleaſure by his friends and acquaintance, but they have ever lamented that thoſe abilities were devoted to

and his Grace, with conſiſtent prudence, was pleaſed to produce and inſiſt on a *ſet off* for the amount of his board during the time he had remained at his ſeat. This is a fact well known in the neighbourhood of Chicheſter.

the ungrateful taſk of admoniſhing petulant folly, or the vain effort of counteracting natural imbecility.

It may, indeed, be matter of triumph, that without reputation, without experience, but not without intereſt, you have ſtepped from the rank of Captain in the Thirty-fifth Regiment, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Guards. I leave the world to decide how far this partial promotion can be reliſhed by the Officers of the Coldſtream; and it may with the ſame facility determine how far it has been proportioned to the merit of a man, whoſe peaceable ſervices were confined to the narrow limits of leſs than four years. The prudent foreſight of his Grace has been repeatedly

peatedly experienced; by his intereſt, Colonel Jones, to the prejudice of a deſerving officer, was early and inviduouſly obtruded upon this corps. Hull preſented a ſafe haven; and the grateful Colonel could do no leſs than embrace the firſt lucrative opportunity, to ſtep aſide and make room for the nephew of his patron.

The manner in which you was thus introduced into the Coldſtream, without the concurrence, or even the previous knowledge of the Duke of York, muſt have been highly injurious to his feelings. The moſt dependant Colonel in the ſervice is allowed ſome ſhare in the nomitation of his officers; to deny this compliment to the Son of the Sovereign, was reſerved for

for the happy *moderation* of the preſent Adminiſtration. But his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, conſidering you rather as the inſtrument, than the author of this inſult, continued to extend to you his countenance, and ſuffered you to ſhare the feſtive enjoyments of his convivial hours.

Whatever were your party principles, you could not be ignorant how obnoxious the Miniſter had rendered himſelf to this illuſtrious perſonage. Inſenſible to the diſtreſs of his Royal Highneſs's ſituation, in his early embaraſſments, he had endeavoured to intercept from him the generous intentions of the people; he was ſuſpected of having eſtranged from him the

the affections of his Father, and the eſteem of his King; he had avowedly placed himſelf in open oppoſition to his pretenſions and expectations; and had attemped to confound the Heir Apparent to the Crown, with the meaneſt of his future ſubjects. To have borne theſe repeated indignities without reſentment — to have ſuffered theſe accumulated injuries to paſs without ſome mark of diſpleaſure or indignation, would have argued a want of ſpirit unworthy a gentleman, and unbecoming a Prince. Your ſituation allowed you not to be ignorant of the ſentiments of his Royal Highneſs; yet you preſumed, in the minute of unguarded familiarity, to propoſe, in the preſence of the Prince of Wales, the health of the

man

man you knew to be moſt obnoxious to him. A momentary effuſion of pardonable warmth, was ſucceeded by a juſt and permanent contempt. Your ignorance and inſolence was pitied and deſpiſed; and you was permitted to retire with impunity, and almoſt without obſervation.

To a private gentleman, I am convinced the indignity would never have been offered; but you was not *indifferent* to the vanity of braving a Prince; you was not *inſenſible* to the ſecurity with which it could be affected.

One might have imagined you would have been ſatisfied with this ſingle gratification of an *indecent* and *turbulent*

turbulent pride, but a perſeverance in ſimilar conduct, a daily and boaſtful repetition of diſreſpectful language produced the rebuke from Co onel St. L——, which you had too much prudence to *ſeem* to perceive, becauſe you had too little ſpirit to venture to *reſent*.

The pointed *admonition* was circulated through the polite circles, and with it, the more pointed comment of your ſuperior Officer. He indeed was aſtoniſhed at the contraſted proofs of unwarrantable inſolence, and puſillanimous forbearance. His remarks were delivered in public, and ſoon reported by a certain tale-bearing Lord, late the undiſcerning

patron of harmony, but now the ſucceſsful promoter of diſcord.

Your ſituation was thus become critical; the contempt of the world was cloſing faſt upon you, and impending infamy was only to be avoided by ſome determined and deciſive meaſure. The moſt natural was, to have ſought reparation from that Gentleman whoſe expreſſions had firſt wounded your reputation, or rather developed to the world your real character, and hereditary diſpoſition. But this method of proceeding would have been attended with no ſmall danger. The courage of Colonel St. L—— has always been univerſally acknowledged, and *his* ſituation

tuation allowed *him* to grant any ſatisfaction which *your nice ſenſe* of honour could poſſibly require. The raſh ſuggeſtion was therefore inſtantly rejected, and you reſolved to adopt a plan, which you flattered yourſelf would eſtabliſh your fame, while you confided in the idea that it never could endanger your perſon.

The Royal deſcent of your Commanding Officer, ſcarce permitted him to wave the diſtinction of birth, and place himſelf on a level with a common ſubject. His high and particular military ſituation might equally deter him from meeting in the field an inferior Officer of his own regiment, and under his immediate command. You determined to expoſ-

tulate, when you thought you would not be permitted to fight.

You choſe your time and place for this expoſtulation with *conſiſtent precaution*; could any time or place be ſo likely to produce interference, as the very parade, and moment, where and when the Duke of York was exerciſing the regiment *he* commanded, and *you* belonged to? You was immediately ordered to your poſt; but when the duty of the morning was over, his Royal Highneſs condeſcended to liſten to your *complaints*. The expreſſion, which he conſidered it diſgraceful for you to have paſſed without proper explanation, you was informed was made uſe of at D'Aubigny's;

ny's; but with a manly reſolution, he refuſed to particularize the words, or the perſon, who originally had given the *reprimand.* He added, for his own remarks he was willing to hold himſelf accountable; that he wiſhed to be conſidered as a private gentleman; and when not on duty, that he wore a brown coat. Your diſappointment was exceſſive; your confuſion was viſible.

The firm and manly language of his Royal Highneſs, deſtroyed the very foundation on which the expoſtulation had been built. You had gone too far, directly to retract; but you ſtill wiſhed to evade. You thought proper to addreſs a circular and curious

rious letter* to every member of D'Aubigny's, and expected that they ſhould

* *Richmond-houſe, May*, 18, 1789.

SIR,

A report having been ſpread, that the Duke of York had ſaid, "Some words had been made uſe of to me in a political converſation, that no gentleman ought to ſubmit to"---I, on the firſt opportunity, ſpoke to his Royal Highneſs before the Officers of the Coldſtream regiment, to which I have the honour to belong. His anſwer was, "That he had heard them ſaid to me at D'Aubigny's," but poſitively refuſed to tell me the expreſſion, or the perſon who had uſed it. In this ſituation, being perfectly ignorant what his Royal Highneſs can allude to, and not being aware that any ſuch expreſſion ever paſſed, I cannot find any better mode of clearing up this matter, than by writing a letter to every member of D'Aubigny's Club, deſiring each of them to let me know if he can recollect any expreſſion to have been uſed in his preſence, which could bear the conſtruction put upon it by his Royal Highneſs; and in ſuch caſe, by whom the expreſſion was uſed. If any ſuch expreſſion ſhould occur to your memory, (as you

ſhould have treaſured up with care and retention, words, which as they only imported yourſelf, ought to have been moſt ſtrongly imprinted on your own recollection. The anſwers you received were ſhort, but not inexpreſſive of the ſentiments of thoſe who wrote them. The terms in which they were couched, allowed no improper opportunity for you to efface the ſuſpicions entertained of your courage, by a rencontre with thoſe who were your equals, but you

you muſt be conſcious of the diſagreeable ſituation in which I am placed,) I truſt and hope you will take the earlieſt opportunity of ſtating it to me. If no ſuch expreſſions occurs to your memory, I would not give you the trouble of an anſwer, which I ſhould elſe hope to receive before this day ſe'nnight.

ſtill perſevered in your application to the Duke of York.

The alacrity ſhewn by his Royal Highneſs, was far from being agreeable to your *prudent* intentions; yet a difference of this nature might be reported to the King, and produce the interpoſition of that Royal authority you *ſeem* ſo much to have wiſhed for. Some praiſe muſt be aſcribed to your policy, which to promote ſo deſirable an event, ſelected for your Second, the domeſtic ſervant of your Sovereign; but here again you was unfortunately diſappointed. Duty, decency, and propriety, all ſuggeſted to Lord Winchelſea, the line of conduct he ought to have obſerved. Duty, decency, and propriety, were overborne

overborne by the voice of vanity. Your's would be the danger; but ſome degree of *preſumptuous* fame would be annexed to the man who carried the challenge, and attended you to the field as a Second, againſt the ſon of *your* Sovereign, and *his* maſter. The invitation was accepted. The circumſtances of the meeting are before the public*. The gallantry of

* To preclude the unfounded repreſentations which may be propagated reſpecting the affair that took place this day, the Seconds think it neceſſary to give the following authenticated account:———

In conſequence of a diſpute already known to the public, His Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, attended by Lord Rawdon,---and Lieut. Colonel Lenox, accompanied by the Earl of Winchelſea, met at Wimb'edon Common. The ground was meaſured at twelve paces; and both parties were to fire upon a ſignal agreed upon. The ſignal being

 given,

of the Duke of York cannot be too much commended. But whether we conſider Colonel Lenox's *pretended* ignorance

given, Lieut. Col. Lenox fired, and the ball grazed his Royal Highneſſes' curl. The Duke of York did not fire. Lord Rawdon then interfered, and ſaid, "That he thought enough had been "done." Lieut. Col. Lenox obſerved, "That "his Royal Highneſs had not fired." Lord Rawdon ſaid, "It was not the Duke's intention to "fire. His Royal Highneſs had come out upon "Lieut. Col. Lenox's deſire to give him ſatis-"faction, and had no animoſity againſt him." Lieut. Col. Lenox preſſed that the Duke of York ſhould fire, which was declined, upon a repetition of the reaſon. Lord Winchelſea "then "went up to the Duke of York, and expreſſed "his hope that his R. H. could have no objection "to ſay, he conſidered Lieut. Col. Lenox, as a "man of honour and courage;" His R. H. rereplied, "that he ſhould ſay nothing; he had come "out to give Lieut. Col. Lenox ſatisfaction, and "did not mean to fire at him; if Lieut. Col. "Lenox was not ſatisfied, he might fire again." Lieut. Col. Lenox ſaid, "he could not poſſibly

"fire

ignorance of, and patient acquiescence under, the ſarcaſm of Col. St. L———: the ſuſpicious manner in which he obtruded himſelf on the notice of Royalty; and his quitting at laſt the field without explanation or apology, we may pronounce with ſo congenial a nephew to inherit his title, the *amiable qualities* of the preſent Duke of Richmond, will not at his deceaſe, be conſign'd to oblivion; but we are yet to learn how long it

" fire again at the Duke, as his Royal Highneſs " did not mean to fire at him."

On this, both parties left the ground. The Seconds think it proper to add, that both parties behaved with the moſt perfect coolneſs and intrepidity.

(Signed) WINCHELSEA.
RAWDON.

Tueſday Evening, May 26, 1789.

will

will be thought decent to continue as a Lord of the Bedchamber, the man who abetted an attempt on the life of the ſon of his Maſter and his King.

FINIS.